

Brought to you by
Stonehouse Town Council

stonehouse news

ISSUE 60 SPRING 2026



Heading for Britain
in Bloom 2026



A warm welcome to all



Community news
and local events

Easter services, festivals
fundraising and lots more

welcome

Welcome to the Spring edition of Stonehouse News

The days are getting longer, and hopefully the cold, frosty weather is behind us.

Here are a few fantastic events that are happening this year, to put in your diary:

- Canal Festival - 5th July 2026
- EAT Food Festival - 16th August 2026
- Goodwill - 5th December 2026

More information about these events nearer the time!

Lastly, please support our local shops and the growing Stonehouse Market, which is outside the Willow Tree Practice every Saturday morning.

The Stonehouse News Team

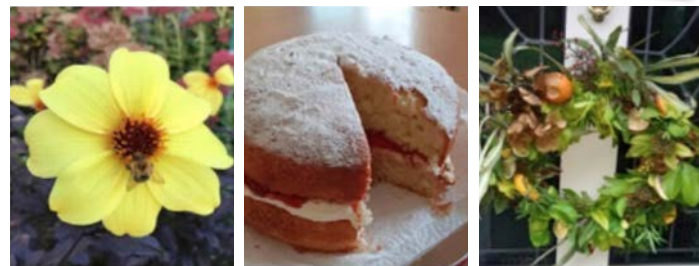


Celebrating 58 years in Stonehouse

Spring 2026 marks 58 years of local women getting together at the Community Centre as a WI, a truly great achievement. The WI as an organisation does not only meet for friendship and learning, they also campaign on an incredible range of issues. One initiated in 1954 called to preserve the countryside against desecration by litter led to the formation of the Keep Britain Tidy group. An action from over 70 years ago that still has a huge impact today.

The Great British Spring Clean is an annual event involving the whole nation. This year it takes place from 13th to 29th March. Our group will be highlighting the environmental benefits of keeping the places and spaces we care about clean and tidy. Small actions can make a big difference!

stonehousewi.weebly.com or
stonehousewi@gmail.com



STONEHOUSE W.I.

LEARN WITH US & LAUGH WITH US



International tree care conference in Stonehouse

In April 2026 Stonehouse – and the Stonehouse Community Arboretum – will be hosting an international tree care conference on the theme of green equity. Essentially this is the concept that we know trees are good for us, but we also know that the environmental, social and economic benefits they bring are not equally distributed throughout our communities.

To help raise awareness and address this, the Arboricultural Association is holding the Green Equity Symposium at Stonehouse Court Hotel, at which around 150 delegates from the world of arboriculture will come to our town to learn about this important issue from a number of experts from the UK, USA, Canada, Spain, the Netherlands and South Africa. It is fitting that the event be held here, not only because it is the home of the Arboricultural Association but also because the Stonehouse Community Arboretum Management Plan was one of the first tree strategies in the world to take green equity into consideration. We look forward to welcoming delegates and speakers to Stonehouse for this important event.

For more information, please contact john@trees.org.uk

Stonehouse in Bloom heads for Britain in Bloom finals in 2026

Stonehouse in Bloom has again been selected to represent the Heart of England in the Small Town category of this summer's RHS Britain in Bloom competition.

The volunteer-led group, which is supported by Stonehouse Town Council and numerous community organisations and town businesses, will be welcoming the judges to the town on a date yet to be confirmed at the end of July/beginning of August.

Stonehouse in Bloom's efforts will be judged according to criteria that looks at their commitment to improving the local environment, community engagement and horticultural excellence.

Chair of Stonehouse in Bloom Pam Swain said the group was very excited and proud to be selected to once again represent the Heart of England region:

"We are absolutely delighted to put Stonehouse on the map once again in this year's Britain in Bloom finals. In 2025, we won a judges' discretionary award for Community Achievement in the regional competition. We are very proud to be part of the thriving and vibrant community that exists in the town and ready to work hard to make sure we can proudly show the judges round our town when they visit in the summer."

Stonehouse has consistently won Gold in the Heart of England in Bloom competition since 2017 and has been judged the region's Best Small Town every year since 2018. There are 17 Bloom regions that all hold their own Bloom competitions, from which they nominate their highest-performing entries to compete in the UK Finals. This year, Stonehouse will be one of a handful of places representing the Heart of England region in Britain in Bloom. Each of the finalists will be visited by a pair of Britain in Bloom judges in summer 2026, and winners will be announced in the autumn.



Mayor's Column

Hello everyone, and welcome to this edition of Stonehouse News and my first Mayor's introduction.

It was a great honour to have been elected as Mayor of Stonehouse at the end of last year, and I have very much enjoyed working with the other volunteer Councillors and our staff team, as well as getting stuck into various issues which have arisen in the last few months. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to our previous Mayor, Neil Gibbs, who made a great contribution to our town over many years.

We have a wonderful community here in Stonehouse, and much of that is thanks to the huge amount of behind-the-scenes work that goes into Town Council operations. If you have not come along to a Town Council meeting before, then you would be very welcome – the schedule of meetings is available on the Town Council website and there is a section set aside at the start of each meeting for members of the public to raise any matters or ask any questions they might have. Public participation is an essential part of local democracy, and I would encourage you to get involved.

There are of course many other ways to get involved with, and support, your community, and we have some wonderful groups and organisations doing good things around the town. I don't have the space to list them all here, but there are many opportunities for all interests, from Stonehouse Town Football Club, the schools, Stonehouse in Bloom, the Fig Tree, All Pulling Together, Churches Together, and many more. Or perhaps there is a gap in what is available that you think should be filled? In which case, maybe you are just the person to make it happen.

If you have any ideas for the town, any questions about how things work, any criticisms or positive feedback, then please do get in touch. We would love to hear from you, and you can contact me directly at councillorparker@stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk.

CLLr John Parker

Mayor and Chair of Stonehouse Town Council



Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2025

Thank you! Thank you!! Thank you!!!

What more can we say Stonehouse – this Poppy Appeal you raised more than £23,814 – a fantastic amount by a fantastic town!

Once again YOU have excelled yourselves with your generosity and support to the RBL Poppy Appeal. Thank you for making a difference – YOU continue to inspire and help the RBL continue our mission to support veterans, serving personnel, and their families in times of need.

The local Branch for the RBL is open to ALL - serving, ex-serving or perhaps you've never been in the forces – if you would like to become involved in joining us and joining our community whatever your age please contact: Stonehouse.Secretary@RBL.Community today to find out more.



Supporting the community

Citizens Advice

Citizens Advice Stroud & Cotswolds Districts attend Stonehouse Town Council two Tuesday afternoons per month and can provide information and advice on a range of matters including benefits, debt, housing and relationships. (One of these appointments is dedicated to specialist benefits advice.)

If you would like to speak to an adviser at Stonehouse Town Council, please contact us on 0808 800 0510 Monday & Tuesday 10.00 - 16.00 or Wednesday & Thursday 10.00 - 12.30 to request an appointment.



Supporting our Community

The Team at APT have just completed our annual planning session for 2026. More brilliant ideas given to us by local residents. Our trial run for Monday Munch Club has gone really well, so will be continuing until the end of March, when we will review it. We will be back with a Yard Trail around the Park Estate during March and then again in October.

Our Family Fun Day will be a bit earlier this year on Saturday 8th August, so if you are interested in having a stall, get in touch and book your place. The annual coach trip will be mid September and we are just getting ideas to book the trip. Where would you like to go? Let us know as soon as possible.

As part of our activities we are just booking a second Theatre School session; paint a pot; upcycling clothes; children's science session and so much more.

If you have ideas for activities you would like us to provide or where you would like us to visit on the coach trip this year, get in touch, by phoning 01453 822705 or email us at aptccentral@btconnect.com.



Stonehouse Community Centre grows from strength to strength

Stonehouse Community Centre continues to go from strength to strength, thanks to the recent appointment of new trustees who have brought fresh ideas, energy, and a clear vision for the future.

In just six months, the centre has made significant progress. A brand-new interactive website has been launched, making it easier than ever for the community to find information and get involved. We now accept card payments and have introduced an online booking system with integrated invoicing, streamlining the process for both users and organisers.

Behind the scenes, improvements include the move to online banking and the installation of ANPR in the car park, helping to ensure that centre users can park with confidence. We've also strengthened our social media presence, allowing us to better share news, events, and updates with the wider community.

Fundraising has been another key focus. Recent events have been a great success and there's plenty more to look forward to, including a **table-top sale, Easter Fayre, Summer Fayre** — and yes, we'll even dare to mention the C word already, with festive plans beginning to take shape!

With continued support from the community, Stonehouse Community Centre is well on its way to an exciting and vibrant future.

Stonehouse Saturday Stalls set to return outdoors

Stonehouse Saturday Stalls have been enjoying a cosy winter season inside the Community Centre over the past couple of months, providing a warm and welcoming space for traders and visitors alike. The move indoors has allowed the market to continue thriving through the colder weather, keeping the familiar community spirit alive.

As the seasons begin to change, the indoor chapter is coming to a close. The final indoor market will take place on Saturday 14th March, marking the end of a successful winter run.

From that same date, the much-loved outdoor stalls will return to their usual spot, bringing Stonehouse Saturday Stalls back into the open air once again. Shoppers can look forward to browsing their favourite local traders while enjoying the fresh spring atmosphere.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back and seeing familiar faces — and new ones — very soon.

Stonehouse in Bloom Poetry Bus Stop

These are the themes for poetry for 2026.

Could you write something to match the theme?

Do you have a favourite poem that fits in?

Send it to Su at suchard17@gmail.com or drop it in to the Council Offices.

We look forward to hearing from you!
All poems will be read but not necessarily displayed.

Jan and Feb: **THOUGHT PROVOKING**

March and April: **GREEN SHOOTS**

May and June: **LIGHT**

July and August: **AWAY**

Sept and Oct: **AMBER**

Nov and Dec: **STARS**



Stonehouse Library news

New members are always welcome at the library. All you need is ID with your address. Did you know library computers give you free access to Ancestry, Find my Past and British Newspaper Archives?

Our regular events continue with **Baby Bounce and Rhyme** on Wednesdays between 10.30 am and 11.

Library Littles, which is a Sensory Play, Storytime, and Song Group for children aged 1-3 and their families, continues on the 2nd Saturday of the month from 11:00 am-11.30am. We will be taking a break from Storytime every 1st Saturday from April but Jude, our Storyteller will be helping with Library Littles.

Our **Over 60's group** continues to meet on the 3rd Monday of the month between 11:00am and 12.30. Due to high demand booking is essential because space is limited.

For more information and dates for all our activities see gloslibraries.uk/

HOME START
Stroud and Gloucester



Volunteers wanted

Home-Start Stroud and Gloucester are looking for friendly volunteers to support parents on their parenting journey and to share smiles, chats, and a little kindness along the way.

We're a warm and welcoming team (with the kettle always on!) who believe that sometimes all it takes is a listening ear and a friendly face to make a big difference. It's okay not to be okay, and a little reassurance can mean the world.

If you'd like to join our volunteer family and make a real difference in your community, we'd love to hear from you.

Come and be part of something special.

Please do get in touch about our upcoming Volunteer prep course starting in February.

Contact number: 01453 297470

Email us on: enquiries@homestartsd.org

Website: homestartsd.org



Community news & groups

April 2026

Make a Will Month

Write or update your will during **Cobalt's Make a Will Month**

 **Cobalt Medical Charity**
Diagnosis • Research • Education
Registered Charity Number 1000761

 **FR**
FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR



Shrubberies May Fayre



We'd love for you to join us for what is always a fabulous event - our school's May Fayre! Please look out for our posters circulating nearer the time for date, time and information of all the fantastic activities and stalls on offer.

Cobalt Medical Charity

Walk for Cobalt

Saturday 21 March 2026 (Cheltenham)

Following the success of Walk for Cobalt in 2025, we're delighted to announce its return on Saturday 21 March 2026. Join us for an uplifting day of walking, fundraising, and community spirit in support of Cobalt Medical Charity and its vital work.

The walk starts at Linton House and finishes at The Exmouth Arms, Bath Road, with two route options (approximately 5-7km) to suit all ages and weather conditions. Walkers can start anytime from 10.00am, with maps provided in advance.

Entry: Adults £10; children and dogs walk for free.

Details and registration: cobalthhealth.co.uk/event/walk-for-cobalt-2026/

Make a Will Month – April

During April, participating local solicitors will waive their fees for writing a will in return for a donation to Cobalt (£150 for a single will; £200 for mirror wills). Places are limited, so early booking is advised.

More information: cobalthhealth.co.uk/fundraising/make-a-will-month/

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS

Green Scene by Liz Green

Two new, green businesses at 44 High Street

Omni/Origin, a solar energy company, invites you to a Drop-In session on Saturday, March 7, from 10am to 3pm. As solar energy can seem daunting, ongoing, free, no obligation advice is offered in the showroom.

The Bike Shack, a separate, small start-up, converts bikes to E-bikes and does bike repairs.

Recycling at local stores & the Community Centre

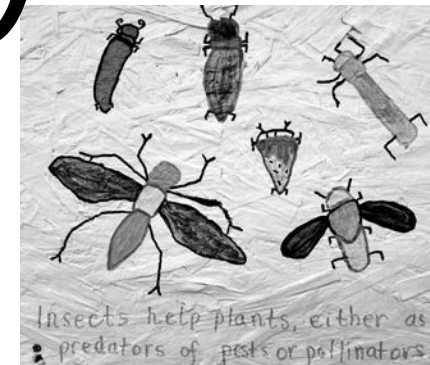
Stonehouse Co-op takes clean, soft plastic e.g. crisp packets, plastic bags, bread wrappers, etc., which can't be put in your recycling bin. They are then made into useable plastic pellets. They also take batteries.

Delta 9 takes electronics such as laptops and desktops, also printer cartridges.

The Community Centre takes hearing aid batteries and printer cartridges.

Solar initiatives

Solar panels were erected on the Co-op roof in December. Also, Stonehouse Town council is hoping to work with the Community Centre to explore solar panels, and is looking at energy-saving possibilities for the Pavilion.



'Insects help plants, either as predators of pests, or pollinators'

One of the artworks along the car park fence and railway station railings, created by local young people



The Pod is thriving

The Pod is a community run by The Door and commissioned by Stonehouse Town Council providing a safe, lively, and creative environment for young people. The Pod did so many exiting things during 2025, going to Drayton Manor, hosting BBQs and collaborating with Cotswolds Canals to help young people volunteer in supporting our environment, making 2025 full of laughter and joy from young people.

The Pod has been thriving, with young people either playing safe but competitive games of pool, drawing in our quiet space, or exploring interests through video games making The Pod a friendly and supportive environment.

We will continue to cook and eat together every Friday, and a third cohort of Young Leaders will be trained, giving young people a soft launch into work and allowing them to take on more responsibility in their youth club. We are so excited to see what 2026 has to bring!

Written by R.L, 15



Improving access for all on our Community Space

Boardwalk

Thanks to your contributions we smashed our target and raised £2805.41 for Phase 1 of our Boardwalk. Your plaques are displayed on the information board ready to go on the planks.

If you didn't manage to get your order in, we are now taking orders for your planks in Phase 2. Visit our website to Sponsor a **Plank & 'Stamp'** for £35, or just to make a general **donation**.

Look out for our pontoon

Stonehouse Town Council is funding the materials and ecological work for our **pontoon**. Stroud Valley Canal Company is about to start preparation works, and we aim to have it finished by March.

Events

Events are planned for the first Sunday of every month from May til October, and we hope to have a new coffee cart starting soon so...

Join us, join in and enjoy your community space!

Website: spicestonehouse.co.uk • Email: hello@spicestonehouse.co.uk



SUN DAYS

AT THE
SHIP INN
COMMUNITY SPACE, STONEHOUSE

MAY 3RD – SPICE 1ST BIRTHDAY PARTY
JUNE 7TH – NATURE & ENVIRONMENT DAY
JULY 5TH – STONEHOUSE CANAL FESTIVAL
AUGUST 2ND – SHIP INN REGATTA
SEPTEMBER 6TH – WALKFEST WELCOME
OCTOBER 4TH – APPLE DAY

Come and join us



Share & Repair Share & Repair are a volunteer-led Community Interest Company (CIC) whose members give of their time freely using and sharing their skills, experience and efforts to effect repairs on a variety of household items. They also function and safety test generously donated items for resale. These sales and modest charges for repairs cover our daily running costs.

Join us and add your support to making **Share & Repair** the best it can be.

Your Community needs you!

No matter your skill or your experience – from 'front of house' to tinkering with toasters we need your time, your effort, your help. Come in and find out more.

shareandrepairstonehouse.com





teckels

Events

Spring is in the air, and with it comes our first community event of the year, the Teckels Spring Fair, details below:

Teckels Spring Fair

Sunday, 19th April

The Rest, Court Farm, King's Stanley GL10 3PN

A fantastic day out for the whole family while supporting the vital work Teckels does to care for and rehome animals in need. Visitors can look forward to a wonderful mix of stalls, refreshments, and a dog show, creating a lively, friendly atmosphere that truly reflects the spirit of the Teckels community.

We'd also love you to save the dates for another highlight of the Teckels calendar...

Teckels Summer Fair

Saturday 29th & Sunday 30th August

Fromebridge Mill, Whitminster GL2 7PB

Set in the beautiful surroundings of Fromebridge Mill, the Summer Fair is always a standout event, offering even more to enjoy across two fun-filled days.

Please contact events@teckelsanimalsanctuaries.co.uk for further information.



WILD HOGS HEDGEHOG RESCUE

Registered Charity no: 1168800

Hedgehog Awareness Week

Every year, Hedgehog Awareness Week takes place in the first week of May. Follow us on social media or visit our website to find out more about our events. We use this week to highlight the plight of our native hedgehog. In serious decline and vulnerable to extinction, hedgehogs need our help. Here are some easy things you can do for hedgehogs:

Ensure your garden is safe for hedgehogs. Lift up netting off the ground, check before you trim the grass and under hedges, provide a ramp escape from any ponds, and keep dogs away from hedgehogs. Light bonfires on the day you make them so hedgehogs and other wildlife don't crawl inside.

If you see a hedgehog out in the daylight, or find one with an injury or lying down unwell please call us immediately on 07949 976717. Out of hours, hedgehogs can be taken to your nearest emergency vets

Hedgehog admissions: 07949 976717
General enquiries: wildhogsoffice@gmail.com
wildhogshedgehogrescue.org.uk



SUPPORT Stonehouse

Brought to you by Stonehouse Town Council

PULL OUT AND KEEP



Winter Welcome in Stonehouse

Dear residents,

We realise that this winter is going to be difficult for many of you. We have attempted to put together a list of places where you can get advice, help of various kinds and good company.

The list is accurate at the time of going to press but please bear in mind that things do change.

If you can't find what you need in these pages, please do contact either the Town Council on 01453 822070 or APT (All Pulling Together) on 01453 822705.

Carol Kambites, for the Support Stonehouse working group

Warm Welcome

Stonehouse Community Centre

- Café
Thursday and Friday
9am to 11.30am
Prices start at £1 up to £5.50.
- Friendly Circle
Every other Friday
£4 includes refreshments and entertainment.

Stonehouse Methodist Church Morley Hall

- Lunch followed by a variety of homemade cakes and a hot drink
The fourth Thursday of every month from 12.30pm
Pay as you can.

Stonehouse Bethel Church

- Coffee mornings
Second and fourth Thursdays each month
10am onwards.

Stonehouse Baptist Church

School Term Time only – Maidenhill pupils only – Run by Sportily and The Door

- Breakfast Café
7.40am till 8.30am.

The Pod, Oldends Lane 11 to 17 years

- Toasties and fruit
Tuesday 3.30pm – 5.30pm and
Thursday 6.30pm – 8.30pm.
- Cooking food session
Friday 3.30pm – 5.30pm.

APT

- Monday Munch Club
12.30pm to 2.30pm
Complete meal with hot drinks
Pay as you can/donation.

St Josephs RC Church, Church Hall, Oldends Lane

- Community Welcoming Lunch
Every first Thursday from 12.30
Hearty soups to choose from, including vegetarian and gluten free, cakes and puddings as well as our bottomless tea and coffee pots to chat over
Donations welcome.

St Cyrs Church

- Church Café
Every second Saturday
10am – 12noon, coffee and cakes, proceeds to church funds.

Stonehouse Library

Opening Times:

- Monday: 10am – 1pm
- Tuesday: Closed
- Wednesday: 10am – 5pm
- Thursday: 2pm – 5pm
- Friday: 10am – 1pm
- Saturday: 10am – 1pm

Regular Activities:

- Happy Mondays Club (Over 60s):
3rd Monday of each month
11am – 12:30pm.
- Baby Bounce and Rhyme:
Every Wednesday
10:30am – 11am.
- Library Littles:
2nd Saturday of each month
11am – 11.30am.





Supporting our Community

Activities	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Monday	10am – 12 noon Food supplies available	1pm – 2pm Fun Learning Session Aimed at young people not or part attending school	Patchwork Group <i>Closed Session</i>
Tuesday	10am – 12.30pm GL Communities Debt Advice 11am—12 noon SDC Tennant Services Monthly	<i>Closed</i>	Meetings
Wednesday	10am – 12 noon Courses & Meetings	1pm – 3pm Meetings	5pm – 6.30pm Crochet Group Open to all
Thursday	10am – 12noon Open for Drop in P3 Inclusion Advice	12.30 – 2.30pm Open for food supplies 1pm – 3pm Citizens Advice Appointment only	Meetings
Friday	10am – 12 noon Craft & Chat Last Friday of the month Open to all	<i>Closed</i>	<i>Closed</i>

You must register your interest to participate in any of the courses due to limited spaces. Please contact APT for more information. 01453 822705

If you have a group you would like to start, let us know, and we can help get you started.

APT can help you write your CV, look for jobs, find the right advice for your needs as well as providing access to computers, the internet and a phone.

Please check the window and facebook for more up-dates.

(Timetable subject to change). Tel: 01453 822705



P3 are here to improve lives and communities by delivering services for socially excluded and vulnerable people to un-lock their potential and open up new possibilities.

**We are based in Daniels Industrial Estate, Bath Road, Stroud GL5 3TJ
01453 750480**

If you are new to using the service or if we already know you, you can:

- Text us
- Ring us
- Message us on the P3 Connect App
- Request a doorstep visit from us
- Arrange a Hub appointment



Flexible solutions for your advice needs

Advice Services that provide a total end to end solution

Sandra Day is a Money Advice Worker at GL Communities and is well known to many across the County.

Contact for more information

Phone: 01452 505544

Appointments only

Local Support Organisations

Family Support:

Home Start run family support groups which include Fathers groups around the district. To contact the organisation ring the office on 01453 297470 (based at Bonds Mill) or email: enquirieshomestartsd@gmail.com

Age UK Gloucestershire:

Support for the elderly in all aspects of life. If you need help just ring 01452 422660 or you can email them: enquiries@ageuk

Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Support Service:

There to help anyone who needs support. Just ring 01452 726570 or you can email them: support@gdas.org.uk



We provide free, independent, impartial and confidential advice across the Stroud district, and we work to empower and enable people to use that advice to solve their problems, whatever they may be. Our main office is in Stroud. We are currently only able to receive phone calls or emails. To speak to an advisor ring us on: 0808 800 0510. Calls to this number are free or visit our online email page

citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk/stroud-cab-email-advice.php

and complete a short online form giving us a few sentences about your problem and how we can contact you.

Available at APT or the Town Hall by appointment only

Activities	Morning	Afternoon
Monday	10am – 12 noon Time to be still: somewhere to sit and be quiet. Enjoy a quiet 10 mins or stay an hour... gentle music and slide show.	2pm – 4pm Front Room: come along, chat, play board games, bring a craft activity... meet others over a drink and biscuit.
Tuesday	10am – 12 noon Meeting Place: Come along if you need some language support and want to meet new friends. Pop in to find out more.	2pm – 4pm Quiet Book Group (3rd in the month): spend half an hour quietly reading your book/magazine/ whatever you want to read – then chat about your book over a drink and something nice to eat, or just listen.
Wednesday	10am – 12 noon Memory Café (2nd in the month): Are you caring for someone with dementia? Bring them along to a friendly morning with home made cakes, a varied programme and a chance to chat with others who understand. Please contact us if you need a lift. Share Cafe (4th in the month): Someone in your life may have died, or be in care. You may be a carer and feel the loss of your own identity and the person you care for. This friendly safe space can offer you support in your journey of loss, companionship and an informal listening ear.	2pm – 4pm Toddler Singing: Come along with your little ones to enjoy singing for as long as the children wish, then stay and play.
Thursday	10am – 12 noon Toddlers: Parents bring your toddler to a stay and play session... plenty of toys and puzzles and other parents to chat to.	1pm – 4pm Babies: bring your under 9 month old to enjoy meeting other babies and their parents... plenty of baby toys on gorgeous fleece mats.
Friday	10am – 12 noon Toddler Crafts: spend 10 mins or 2 hours making something with your child, and then play.	3pm – 4.30pm After School (term time only): Plenty of toys, games and books, and a craft for families on their way home from school.
Saturday	10am – 12 noon Dads and Children: A group run by men for Dads and children... plenty of toys and games.	Drinks and biscuits included in all sessions Donations always welcomed



Stonehouse History Group

Shops in Stonehouse

We are researching the history of local shops. Do you have any photos you could let us copy? Or memories of working in one of the shops?

You could write down your memories and send them to us or we could come and talk to you.

Contact info@stonehousehistorygroup.org.uk



History Group Meetings

We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Park Junior School Hall at 7.30 pm. Cost £2 members, £3 non-members. Visit our website stonehousehistorygroup.org.uk for more information.

Forthcoming Events 2026

March 11th – Simon Draper – *Lines in the landscape: decoding boundaries (with a Gloucestershire/Wiltshire focus)*

April 8th – *The history of Hoffmann's*

May 13th 7.15 pm – AGM followed by short talks by members

June 10th – Alexia Clark – *MOD war detective*

July 8th – Nicola Potter – *Metal detecting and finds from Gloucestershire*



Stonehouse Walking Festival

Our 7th Stonehouse Walking Festival will be from **4th - 13th September**. On Sunday 6th September many of our walks will launch from the Ship Inn Community Space where we will have an event with refreshments and the festival will end with a tea party organised by Stonehouse in Bloom. Also new for this year we are planning to link up with Dursley Walking Festival, and as ever there will be our popular canal, tree and history walks, fully accessible walks – something for all ages and abilities.

There are so many lovely destinations to walk to from our own doorsteps and we aim to bring them all, and more to our festival.

If you would like to get involved, perhaps suggest a walk or a tour, please get in touch by contacting 07816 552171 or emailing stonehousewalkfest@gmail.com



eat:Stonehouse food and drink festival update

This summer Stonehouse hosts its first food and drink festival on **Sunday 16 August**.

The High Street will be closed between the High Street car park to Elm Road during the day. Stalls will be setting-up on the green spaces and the road - complementing the many local independent businesses.

The organisers, eat:Festivals, are a small social enterprise who have been delivering one day food and drink festivals in towns across the south-west for over 13 years. The festival in Stonehouse is open for applications – head over to eatfestivals.org/apply

eat:Stonehouse will be an opportunity for the community to come together. The festival will showcase brilliant food and drink producers and give businesses the chance to welcome new people into their premises. The festival will have 50 makers, growers and producers, free entertainment and music, extra seating and a great atmosphere. The festival is focusing on producers from within 30 miles of Stonehouse.

eat:Stonehouse is sponsored by Schreiber Foods.

Faith groups

St Cyr’s Church

St Cyr’s Church is open daily. Join our **Family Service** every Sunday at 9:30am. Stay informed via Facebook, Instagram (“St Cyr’s Church Stonehouse”), or our website: stroudwaterchurches.org.uk.

Upcoming events:

- Church Café:** Second Saturday of each month, 10am–12noon
- Lent Group:** Mondays at 7pm starting 23rd February (contact us for details)
- Lent Lunches:** Tuesdays at 12:30pm starting 2nd March (contact us for details)
- Flower Posies:** Make flower posies on Saturday 14th March, 10am–12noon
- Mothering Sunday:** Service at 9:30am

Everyone is welcome

Easter @ Stonehouse Methodist Church

- Palm Sunday 29th March**
Churches Together Procession & Service at Green by St Cyr’s
- Maundy Thursday** 7.00pm
CTiS Service at Stonehouse Methodist
- Good Friday** 11.00am
CTiS Walk of Witness
Stonehouse High Street
- Easter Day Dawn Service**
CTiS at Ocean Canal Bridge
- Easter Day Service 5th April** 10.30am

Led by our Minister Revd Jimmy Cullingford including Holy Communion
- Our **Sunday services** are at 10.30am and you will receive a warm welcome. Refreshments are served afterwards to continue fellowship.

- Palm Sunday Procession:** Starts at the War Memorial at 10am. Canalside service at 11am
 - Good Friday Walk of Witness:** From the War Memorial at 11am
 - Easter Sunday:** Canalside Sunrise Service at 6am. Family Service & Egg Hunt at 9:30am
- ### Save the dates:
- Saturday 9th – Sunday 10th May 2026: **Mothers Union 150th Anniversary**
 - Saturday 13th June 2026: **Teddy Bear Zip-Wire & Picnic**
 - 5 July 2026: **Stonehouse Canal Festival**
- For pastoral support or inquiries about baptisms, weddings, or funerals, contact Revd Dave Bishop on 01453 822332.

Church of Christ the King, Eastington

Dear Friends,

What an exciting start to the year for The Church of Christ the King Eastington. I hope that your 2026 has started well too!

- Since moving to Great Oldbury Community Centre GL10 3XR, we have started a free Community Café each Sunday from 2pm until 3.30pm.
- The Community Café allows residents of Great Oldbury to meet each other and the local communities of Stonehouse, Eastington and Whitminster to come and make new friends.
- The café is busy with families taking the opportunity to chat, have refreshments and do crafts and games together. The outdoor play park just outside the door makes the afternoon fun whatever the weather.
- The Church also holds friendly and open worship service after the Community Café on Sundays and our Friday Youth Group at 6:30pm is also attracting new members.
- For any details of the above activities please call me, Barbara, on 07570401365

Free Community Cafe



Great Oldbury Community Centre
Sundays in 2026 2pm until 3:30pm



Prayer Space

Every Wednesday 3-6pm – pop in for half an hour

At **Bridge Café**, High Street

Join with a small group of people from the local churches. All are welcome.

Our focus is prayer for all people and aspects of life in Stonehouse and Great Oldbury. We also pray about national and international issues and for individuals as requested.

Stonehouse Baptist Church

Seeking to love and serve God in Stonehouse

- We are an inquisitive group of people who want to know God better, worship him wholeheartedly and show his love in the community. Come and join us!
- We meet at 12B Gloucester Road, just opposite the Nippy Chippy, every Sunday at 10am for prayer and 10.30am for our Sunday gathering. We share in Holy Communion on the 1st Sunday of each month.
- For information about our other activities contact@stonehousebaptist.org.uk or check out our notice board!

.....

Bethel Church

- Each month we will be holding weekly Sunday services at 10.30am. Each service has provision for a Sunday School Class and a Youth Class.
- All Sunday services start at 10.30am unless stated otherwise.
- Website: bethelchurchstonehouse.org.uk

We wish you all a Happy Easter

5 Valleys Catholic Community

5 Valleys Catholic Community now has a new parish priest, Fr Eugene Campbell.

The community of parishes consist of St Joseph’s Stonehouse, The Immaculate Conception Stroud, The Annunciation Woodchester, and Our Lady and St Therese Painswick.

contact number 01453 763 442. email eugene.campbell@cliftondiocese.com

- New **Sunday mass** times are as follows
- Woodchester – Saturday 6:00pm
 - Stonehouse – Sunday 9:00am
 - Stroud Sunday – 11:00am
- Ash Wednesday** 18th February services.
- Stroud – 9:30am
 - Woodchester – 12 noon
 - Stonehouse – 7:00pm

Easter week Services

- Palm Sunday** 29th march
 - Woodchester – Saturday 6:00pm
 - Stonehouse – Sunday 9:00am
 - Stroud – Sunday 11:00am
- Maunday Thursday** 2nd April
 - Stonehouse 8:00pm
 - Good Friday** 3rd April
 - Woodchester 3:00pm
 - Blessing of Baskets** 4th April
 - Stonehouse 11:00am 11:30am 12 noon
 - Easter Vigil** 4th April
 - Stroud 9:00pm
 - Easter Sunday** 5th April
 - Stonehouse 9:00am
 - Woodchester 11:00am
- We will continue with our **welcoming soup lunches** on the first Thursday of each month



Stonehouse Community Choir

Do you like singing? Then why not give Stonehouse Community Choir a try? We meet on Monday evenings, 7.30pm–8.45pm, at St Joseph’s Church Hall, Oldends Lane, Stonehouse. We are a friendly, non-audition choir, singing for enjoyment and pleasure. We have a talented and enthusiastic musical director/accompanist and we sing a range of popular music. Now is a great time to join us as we’ve just started work on a new repertoire which, when ready, we plan to sing at the Community Centre and local care homes.

Singing is great for our physical and mental health. So why not come along to a rehearsal and give us a try? Our first session is free and a warm welcome is guaranteed. For more information, see our Facebook page or contact Mike (farmerlongney@hotmail.com) or Sue (suehartley@outlook.com).

Recreation



Stonehouse Town Football Club

We are now well into the second half of the season with our first 11 still in the running for a playoff spot.

Alongside our 3 senior and 12 youth teams we are pleased to announce a brand-new Ladies set-up, increasing our adult provision and putting in place a dedicated pathway for our girls' teams.

As a club we look to provide options for all and with the addition of the Ladies Team, we feel that we can do this. With female football going from strength to strength, we are proud to be able to offer more diverse opportunities.

We are currently looking for extra players for our mixed under 13s team. With the team starting 11v11 next season we need to bolster our numbers. For further information and to arrange a free trial training session please contact youthsecretary@stonehousetownfc.co.uk

Follow our socials for all the latest news and match dates.



Stonehouse junior parkrun



We're excited for the warmer spring months at Stonehouse junior parkrun. Since starting on 25 March 2018, we've welcomed many community groups and, more recently, further local schools through the parkrun primary initiative. These visits help introduce even more families to our event and we're always happy to see new faces.

We'll be celebrating our 8th birthday at the end of March, so keep an eye on our website or Facebook page for updates.

Join us on Sunday mornings at Oldends Lanes Playing Field at 8:50am.

Our free event is open to children aged 4-14. After a brief welcome – where we may award free wristbands to those who've earned them – and a warm-up, participants can take on our 2km course by running, walking, skipping, jogging or however they prefer to get around. We also offer a first-timers' welcome, so everyone is encouraged to come along and get involved.

Chess & backgammon

Enjoy Thursday evenings playing Chess & Backgammon in The Woolpack, from 6.30pm. Sessions are fun, informal and free, for all ages - from 9 to 81 years old so far, and levels of play, including beginners.

If interested contact Liz Green: lizgreen1119@gmail.com



Stonehouse Park Federation

Celebrating our thriving school clubs

We've had a fantastic start to our expanded extracurricular programme this year. Last term, our clubs included book club, choir, Lego, yoga, and sketching club, ensuring every pupil can find something that inspires them outside the classroom.

Responding to feedback from parents and carers, we've extended some of these opportunities to our Infants school. It's been wonderful to see our younger children enjoying sessions tailored to build confidence and creativity early in their education.

A massive highlight was undoubtedly the School Choir's performance at Stonehouse Goodwill. The children rehearsed diligently and put on a brilliant show. Thank you to everyone in the community who came to support our talented young singers during this festive local tradition.

We're really committed to enriching the school experience for all our children. And on top of this, our breakfast and after-school clubs run every day, with spaces currently available for all children who need them.

.....



Hopelands Prep School & Nursery

The children at Hopelands have been busy exploring, learning, and having fun! Their weekly visits to Raffles Forest School are a real highlight – running through the woods, building dens, cooking up imaginative meals in the woodland kitchens, and finishing with the much-loved fire-cooked popcorn.

The weeks ahead are packed with excitement. The children will celebrate World Book Day, compete in a chess tournament at Bristol Grammar School, dance at the Stroud Country Dance Festival, and take part in National Careers Week, welcoming inspiring visitors to share their stories.

On 6th March, families are invited to the 'When We Grow Up' Open Morning. Children will dive into hands-on play; diggers in the sand, dressing up as doctors, delivering post, and creating giant chalk fire pictures. It promises a morning full of creativity, laughter, and imagination!

Find out more at hopelands.org.uk.



Stonehouse Park Federation at Goodwill



New Head at the Shrubberies

I am delighted to introduce myself as the new Headteacher of The Shrubberies School and The Apperley Centre, a place that has been a huge part of my working life for many years. This school means a great deal to me, and I have always been proud of the education, care, commitment and expertise shown by our staff every day. I truly believe we offer the very best provision for our pupils, supporting them not only to learn but to feel safe, valued and understood. It is a real privilege to now lead a school I know and love so well, and I look forward to continuing to work closely with our families and the wider community.

Rachel Stephens



Canal news

Join us at the Stonehouse Canal Festival!

Mark your calendars for **Sunday 5 July 2026**, and celebrate the local community at the Stonehouse Canal Festival! This family-friendly event promises a day of fun for all ages, featuring live music, local food stalls, arts and crafts, canal boat rides, and exciting activities for children. Explore the historic waterways, meet local artists, and enjoy entertainment along the canal. There's something for everyone. Main festival areas to enjoy are: St Cyr's Church, Stonehouse Court Hotel, Ocean canalside and the Ship Inn Community Space.

Support local businesses, connect with friends and neighbours, and create lasting memories in the heart of Stonehouse.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram by searching for the 'Stonehouse Canal Festival' for updates and event highlights. Don't miss out on this fantastic summer celebration – see you by the canal!

STONEHOUSE CANAL FESTIVAL

Sunday 5 July 2026 **12noon to 4pm**

St Cyr's Church
Stonehouse

Stonehouse
Court Hotel

Ship Inn
Community
Space

Ocean Canalside
Stonehouse



Learning the ropes

On a cold, slightly snowy day, some of our amazing Cotswold Boatmobility volunteers met for a training session. Despite the weather, spirits were high as we practised knots and rope-throwing, and reviewed a range of important safety procedures. These sessions help ensure we continue to provide safe, enjoyable boating experiences for everyone.

We are always keen to welcome new volunteers, so do get in touch via the website if you would like to join us. Weekly boating trips have now resumed after a two-week maintenance break, as we look forward to Spring and watching the waterways come back to life.



Explore the Cotswold Canals in 2026

Spring is just around the corner and the Cotswold Canals Trust is preparing for another vibrant season along our historic waterways. Our popular **public boat trips** restart in April, with tickets available to book online. Departing from Wallbridge Lock in Stroud, these 30-minute trips aboard Perseverance run every Saturday from April to September, with departures between 10:00am and 3:45pm.

Trips from Saul Junction aboard Adventure begin in June, with tickets released later in the spring. **Private charters** are also available at Saul Junction, Ebley or Lechlade, starting from £60 per hour and captained by our volunteer crews.

Guided walking tours return in May, offering insights into the canal's history, wildlife and ongoing restoration. In January, BBC Points West highlighted our work at the Western Depot, available to rewatch on BBC iPlayer.

Follow progress on reconnecting the canal from Eastington to Saul by volunteering, becoming a member, or supporting us at our Stonehouse bookshop.

Find out more at cotswoldcanals.org.

Meet your Councillors



Deputy Chair/Mayor – Keren Capeling

I have been a councillor for the past 16 months and have lived in Stonehouse for just over five years, a community I am proud to call home. Before becoming a councillor, I worked as an engineer and later co-ran a small cleaning company with my friend Jenny. Sadly, following a diagnosis of breast cancer, I had to give up that work as treatment and fatigue made it difficult to continue.

Determined to remain active and independent, I went on to set up The Stonehouse Gift Company. This small business allows me the flexibility to work around my health while staying connected to the local community. The business can be found at the Stonehouse Saturday Stalls and has become a positive and creative outlet for me.

Last year, after learning that the community centre was struggling, I became a trustee to help support its future. In this role, I built a new interactive website, introduced card payments, online banking and an online booking system, and created social media posters to improve advertising and engagement.

I love living in Stonehouse and am passionate about supporting the community wherever I can, using my skills and experience to make a positive difference.



Stagholt Allotment

HEY, how do you fancy growing your own veg?

In recent years there has been a surge of interest in growing your own food. This has led to a big rise in demand for allotments as more and more people recognise the multiple benefits of being an allotment holder. Having a local space to grow fresh, affordable food, meet others, share tips and knowledge, stay active and cut food miles, are all things that appeal to an increasing number of people. Allotments provide valuable green spaces and community assets that offer opportunities for local residents to grow their own produce, improve their health and wellbeing, take action to reduce carbon emissions and foster community cohesion and inclusion.

The new exciting redevelopment of the Stagholt site allows the Town council to offer you the chance (subject to a local tenancy agreement) to become an allotment holder. For an informal chat and more information, please call in to the Town Hall.



SHOP
STONEHOUSE

Please support your local shops and services. Go to shopstonehouse.co.uk, where you can find more information about shops and services in the town and surrounding business parks within the Parish.

Look out for our next edition, due June 2026

stonehouse town council information

Contact us

Stonehouse Town Council
Town Hall
1 Queens Road
Stonehouse
GL10 2QA
T: 01453 822070

Town Clerk: Carlos Novoth
E: townclerk@stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk
Deputy Clerk: Jacqui Sanders
E: deputyclerk@stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk
Business Support & Communication:
Carla Swindells/David Marsden
E: contactus@stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk

Visit stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk
Facebook - Stonehouse Town Council

Opening hours: 9:30am - 4:30pm on every weekday.

Check our website for up-to-date information.

Forthcoming meetings

FULL TOWN COUNCIL

16th March 2026
20th April 2026
18th May 2026

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

2nd March 2026
7th April 2026
5th May 2026

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

9th March 2026
13th April 2026
11th May 2026

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING & CIVIC AWARDS

14th May 2026

Full Town Council meetings take place at the Town Hall/ Library.
Moveable bookshelves allow for meetings to be held in the Library.

Agendas and Minutes are published on the Council's website
stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk

Your Councillors

Town Councillors - stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk

Stonehouse Ward

John Callinan	01453 822070
Keren Capeling (Vice Chair)	01453 822070
Keith Creighton	01453 822070
Deborah Curtis	01453 822070
Marcus Dixon	01453 822070
David Drew	01453 822070
Stephen Hunter	01453 822070
Carol Kambites	01453 822070
Simon Macgregor	01453 822070
John Parker (Chair)	01453 822070
Val Randell	01453 822070
Keith Terry	01453 822070
Carol Trim	01453 822070
Theresa Watt	01453 822070

Town Councillors can be contacted via email using Councillor then their surname eg. councillorparker@stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk

District Councillors - stroud.gov.uk

Carol Kambites	07816 552171
cllr.carol.kambites@stroud.gov.uk	
John Callinan	01453 825547
cllr.john.callinan@stroud.gov.uk	
John Parker	
cllr.john.parker@stroud.gov.uk	

County Councillor - gloucestershire.gov.uk

Dean Botterill
Dean.Botterill@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Member of Parliament - parliament.uk

Simon Opher	01453 621304
simon.opher.mp@parliament.uk	

Event and news information is accurate at the time of printing. Please check details before attending. Stonehouse Town Council reserves the right to close its offices and to change or cancel events without prior notice. Stonehouse Town Council does not endorse the content of advertisements in this publication. © Stonehouse Town Council 2025. Stonehouse News is designed by Gill Sermon – gill@gillsermon.co.uk and printed by MDL Kelex Ltd.

